

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05201 01 OF 04 291518 Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 SR-02 ORM-03

AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 INRE-00 /133 W

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O R 291130 Z MAR 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9358

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USDEL FRANCE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 5201

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 29, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 05201 01 OF 04 291518 Z

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY AS OF 2000 MARCH 29.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I: ICCS: CANDEL CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR KHE SANH INVESTIGATION, CHIDES PRG ON FAILURE TO PAY UP

PART II: FPJMC: NO EXTENSION; NO FINAL COMMUNIQUE; ALL US POWS RELEASED IN HANOI, ONE MORE TO GO IN SVN; DRV SEEKS TO LEAVE LIAISON MISSION TO ICCS IN SAIGON

PART III: TPJMC: INAUGURATION AT ALL- VIETNAMESE CEREMONIAL FIRST MEETING

PART IV: RVN ISSUES STATEMENT ON CIVILIAN DETAINEES

PART V: GVN ACCUSES COMMUNISTS OF 8,949 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

PART VI: HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA GIVES MIXED REVIEW TO FIRST 60 DAYS OF CEASEFIRE

PART VII: MR 1: LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY; SOME NVA UNITS MAY BE PULLING OUT; CANDEL MIL CHIEF IMPRESSED BY GENERAL TRUONG

PART VIII: MR 2: LIGHT MILITARY ACTION, US MILITARY PRESENCE DOWN TO ZERO

PART IX: MR 3: ARVN CG EXPECTS ENEMY ATTACK SOON

PART X: MR 4: ACTION AGAIN INCREASES; TRAFFIC ON MEKONG SLOWED; 7 TH DIV COMMANDER SKEPTICAL OF NEW NVA OFFENSIVE

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. THE MARCH 28 ICCS PLENARY OPENED WITH TWO CANDEL STATEMENTS. REGARDING THE PRG' S REQUEST FOR A RE- INVESTIGATION OF SA HUYNH, CANDEL CITED EVIDENCE FROM ITS REGIONAL ICCS TEAM WHICH TENDED TO PROVE THAT THE PRG HAD BEEN DULY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIAL SA HUYNH INVESTIGATION. (IN ITS REQUEST FOR A RE- INVESTIGATION OF SA HUYNH, THE PRG HAD CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05201 01 OF 04 291518 Z

DENIED THIS.) CANDEL IS NOT, THEREFORE, INCLINED TO APPROVE A RE- INVESTIGATION. SECONDLY, CANDEL SET FORTH THE VIEW THAT AN INVESTIGATION OF MISSILES AT KHE SANH IS A MANDATORY ICCS OBLIGATION. THE CHAIRMAN (HUNGDEL) AGREED TO FORWARD BOTH STATEMENTS TO THE FPJMC, DESPITE POLDEL' S OBJECTIONS.

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE PRG' S ARREARS IN MEETING ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATION UNDER ARTICLE 14(C) OF THE

ICCS PROTOCOL, THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE HAD RAISED THE MATTER WITH THE PRG ELEMENT OF THE FPJMC. THE PRG REPRESENTATIVE WAS SURPRISED THAT PAYMENT HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN RECEIVED. THEY HAD MEANT TO FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE AS THE DRV. HE WOULD CABLE HANOI (SIC) IMMEDIATELY . PLENARY AGREED THAT IF NO PAYMENT WAS RECEIVED BY MONDAY, APRIL 2, THEY WOULD SEND LETTER TO PRG ASKING IT TO MEET ITS OBLIGATION.

3. IT APPEARS THAT THE POLDEL/ HUNGDEL SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, CAREFULLY INSTALLED TO ENSURE THEIR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE REGIONS AND SAIGON, MAY HAVE COME A CROPPER. A CANDEL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, WHO HAS SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME SETTING UP THE ICCS COMMUNICATIONS NET WITH NO HELP FROM POLDEL/ HUNGDEL HAS TOLD US THAT GVN JAMMING OF THE POLDEL/ HUNGDEL SEPARATE NET HAS BEEN VERY EFFICIENT.

PART II: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (FPJMC)

1. AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE FPJMC, AND THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATION MEETING IN SAIGON MAR 28 IS EXPECTED TO BE THE LAST. FPJMC TEAMS HAVE BEGUN TO REDEPLOY TO SAIGON FROM THE FIELD, AND A SCHEDULE HAS BEEN AGREED UPON WHEREBY ALL FPJMC PERSONNEL WILL HAVE LEFT SVN BY MARCH 31.

2. DURING THE MAR 28 MEETING, ALL DELS IN TURN REVIEWED THE PAST 60 DAYS FPJMC PERFORMANCE. THE US NOTED THAT, IN VIEW OF THE LONG WAR IT IS REMARKABLE THAT MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR PARTIES COULD HAVE MET AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE AND DISCUSSED ISSUES IN A REASONABLE, RATIONAL MANNER. US STATEMENT TOUCHED ON FPJMC SHORTCOMINGS BUT ALSO NOTED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RETURN OF POWS, THE DIMUNITION IN LEVEL OF COMBAT IN SVN, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 05201 01 OF 04 291518 Z

HOPEFULLY WILL CARRY OVER TO THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION.

3. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ON A FINAL COMMUNIQUE,
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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05201 02 OF 04 291534 Z

42
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 SAIGON 5201

PART III: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION, AN ALL- VIETNAMESE AFFAIR, WAS HELD ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 29 AT THE TAN SON NHUT CONFERENCE SITE, THE LOCATION PREVIOUSLY USED BY THE FPJMC. WHILE THE MEETING CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05201 02 OF 04 291534 Z

LASTED THREE HOURS, IT WAS REPORTEDLY CEREMONIAL IN NATURE AND NO MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE WERE DISCUSSED.

PART IV: RVN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON CIVILIAN PRISONERS

1. RVN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE MARCH 28 ON CIVILIAN PRISONERS WHICH DESCRIBED THE PRESENT SITUATION AS FOLLOWS. GVN HAS FURNISHED OTHER SIDE WITH LIST OF 5,081 COMMUNIST CIVILIAN PRISONERS HELD BY GVN WHICH WOULD BE LIBERATED IN EXCHANGE FOR THE 63,427 CIVILIANS HELD BY THE COMMUNISTS. COMMUNISTS HAVE SO FAR REFUSED TO HAND OVER A NAME LIST, BUT HAVE MADE IT KNOWN THAT THEY HAVE ONLY 200 SUCH PRISONERS. NO CIVILIAN PRISONER HAS YET BEEN RELEASED BY

OTHER SIDE. OTHER SIDE'S VARYING CLAIMS OF 100,000 OR 200,000 CIVILIAN COMMUNISTS HELD BY GVN ARE PATENTLY UNREALISTIC SINCE GVN DOES NOT HAVE FACILITIES FOR SUCH NUMBERS. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE OTHER PRISONERS IN GVN JAILS THAN JUST CIVILIAN COMMUNISTS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNIST CLAIM THAT IT COULD NOT FEED THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS CONTAINED IN GVN LIST OF COMMUNIST- HELD PRISONERS GVN ASSERTS THAT IT HAS POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THESE 63,427 AND CANNOT BE ACCUSED OF EXAGGERATING. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE GVN DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATED THE NUMBER HELD BY COMMUNISTS IN ORDER TO DELAY THE RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS. THIS IS NOT A VALID ARGUMENT, THE GVN SAYS, SINCE NO CLAUSE IN PARIS AGREEMENTS REQUIRES RELEASE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS WITHIN 60 DAYS AND THE REST IN THE FOLLOWING 30 DAYS. IN CONCLUSION, GVN CLAIMS IT CANNOT BE ACCUSED OF HAVING VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT ON MATTER OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS. (FOR FULL TEXT SEE FBIS SAIGON REPORT S280710).

PART V: AT FJPLUS 60, RVN ACCUSES COMMUNISTS OF 8,949 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

THE RVN CHARGES (OFFICIAL VIET- NAM PRESS PM MARCH 29) THAT THROUGH 0600 MARCH 29, 60 DAYS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE WENT INTO EFFECT, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE VIOLATED THE CEASEFIRE 8,949 TIMES. DURING THIS PERIOD THE RVN CLAIMS TO HAVE KILLED 15,267 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AND CAPTURED 309. RVN ALSO ADMITS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05201 02 OF 04 291534 Z

TO HAVING LOST 3,179 KILLED, 15,548 WOUNDED, AND 831 MISSING. RVN FURTHER CHARGES THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE KILLED 460 CIVILIANS DURING THIS PERIOD, WOUNDED 1,343 AND ABDUCTED 859 OTHERS.

PART VI: HANOI/ VIET CONG PROPAGANDA

1. PARTY PAPER INCONCLUSIVE ON RESULTS OF PARIS AGREEMENT AT X PLUS 60. HANOI'S OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE, THE PARTY NEWSPAPER NHAN DAN, GAVE THE PARIS AGREEMENT A MIXED REVIEW IN ITS MAR 29 EDITORIAL. IN ITS X PLUS 60 ASSESSMENT THE EDITORIAL POINTED TO THE FACT THAT THE US " HAS BASICALLY PUT AN END TO THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF ITS GROUND, AIR, AND NAVAL FORCES" AS BEING AMONG THE " ACHIEVEMENTS" OF THE AGREEMENT. IT ALSO NOTED THE COMPLETION OF THE PW EXCHANGE, THE DEPLOYMENT OF " MOST" OF THE FPJMC AND ICCS APPARATUS, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TPJMC AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL. " THESE ACHIEVEMENTS", SAID NHAN DAN, " ARE SIGNIFICANT."

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED SEVERAL VIOLATIONS BY THE US/ GVN AND CITED NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF

ALLEGED BAD FAITH BY THE ALLIES. ACCORDING TO NHAN DAN " THE MOST OUTSTANDING VIOLATIONS" BY THE US/ GVN INVOLVE THE CEASEFIRE AND TROOP WITHDRAWAL PROVISIONS. THE EDITORIAL BOASTED THAT, " ALTHOUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS VERY DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX", THE COMMUNISTS " HAVE FIRMLY MAINTAINED THE SITUATION TO OUR ADVANTAGE."

3. COMMENT: THE EDITORIAL SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO BOLSTER THE MORALE OF PARTY CADRES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE SOUTH. ITS MILD TONE AND LACK OF REAL SUBSTANCE SUGGESTS THAT HANOI STILL NEEDS MORE TIME TO EVALUATE FULLY THE SITUATION AND TRENDS IN THE SOUTH BEFORE CHOOSING AMONG THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL OPTIONS OPEN TO IT.

4. HANOI KEEPS RELEASE OF LAOS NINE IN PURELY LAOTIAN CONTEXT. WITH NO INDICATION THAT IT HAS BOWED TO US PRESSURE ON THE ISSUE, HANOI PORTRAYED THE RELEASE OF NINE US PRISONERS IN PATHET LAO CUSTODY AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL BY ITS LAOTIAN COMRADES AND AN ATTEMPT " TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR EXPEDITING THE VIETIANE TALKS" BETWEEN THE TWO LAO PARTIES. THUS, PUBLICLY AT LEAST, HANOI IS MAINTAINING TO THE END ITS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 05201 02 OF 04 291534 Z

VIEW THAT PRISONERS CAPTURED AND HELD OUTSIDE OF VIET- NAM ARE NOT COVERED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

PART VII: MR 1

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AGAIN VERY LIGHT THROUGHOUT MR 1, WITH A TOTAL OF 15 INCIDENTS REPORTED, 11 OF THEM ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) AND ONLY 1 GROUND ATTACK. ARVN INTELLIGENCE CONTINUES TO REPORT NVA RESUPPLY ACTIVITY WITHIN THE WESTERN REGIONS OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE, INCLUDING THE EMPLACEMENT OF AAA NORTH OF DONG HA. FIRST DIVISION RECEIVED 4 ABFS AND A TOTAL OF 227 MORTAR ROUNDS. REGION- WIDE CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 9 KIA, 1 MIA, 31 WIA; ENEMY 25 KIA, 1 CAPTURED, 1 RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY REPORTED 1,058 ROUNDS; 460 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 598 SOUTH.

2. ARVN HAS RECEIVED AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT SOME NVA MAIN FORCE UNITS MAY BE BEING PULLED OUT OF THUA THIEN AND QUANG TRI PROVINCES BACK TO NORTH VIETNAM FOR REST AND RECUPERATION. RESIDUAL FORCES, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, ARE TO REMAIN TO HARASS AND PIN DOWN RVN FORCES. AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME THESE NVA UNITS WILL RETURN TO THE SOUTH FOR POSSIBLE ATTACKS.

3. CANADIAN MAJOR GENERAL DUNCAN A. MCALPINE, COMMANDER MILI
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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05201 03 OF 04 291653 Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 SR-02 ORM-03

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANAG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 SAIGON 5201

OBSTRUCTION TACTICS TO BE DELIBERATE AND BASED ON CLEAR AND STRONG INSTRUCTIONS WHICH MUST COME FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS. COLONEL L. C. BAUMGART, SENIOR MILITARY MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN REGION II (DANANG) ICCS DELEGATION, STRONGLY SECONDED THE GENERAL' S REMARKS, CITING CHAPTER AND VERSE OF POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM ON A DAILY BASIS IN DANANG. MCALPINE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05201 03 OF 04 291653 Z

ASSURED CONGEN THAT IN SPITE OF THIS, CANADIANS WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS AGREEMENT.

4. DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL OF MR 1, LIEUTENANT GENERAL LAM QUANG THI, MET WITH THE REGION I (HUE) ICCS ON MARCH 27 TO INVITE THE ICCS TO MAKE AN OBSERVATION TOUR OF RVN - HELD FIREBASE IN NORTHERN MR 1. THE ICCS REACTION IS NOT YET KNOWN.

5. CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN MEMBERS OF QUANG NGAI ICCS TEAM MOVED FROM TAM KY TO PERMANENT QUARTERS AT CHU LAI LATE LAST WEEK. HUNGARIAN AND POLISH DELEGATES WERE EXPECTED TO MOVE TO THEIR CHU LAI QUARTERS MARCH 28. TEAM WILL PAY FIRST FORMAL CALL ON QUANG NGAI PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL NGO VAN LOI ON FRIDAY, MARCH 30. LOI PLANS TO MEET TEAM IN BINH SON DISTRICT, TAKE THE ICCS MEMBERS ON A TOUR OF THE DISTRICT, AND THEN HOST A LUNCH FOR THEM IN QUANG NGAI CITY.

7. THUA THIEN RD CADRE OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT THE RD CADRE HAS BEEN TASKED TO CLASSIFY EACH MEMBER OF THE HAMLET POPULATIONS INTO THREE CATEGORIES: 1) NATIONALIST, 2) COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS, AND 3) COMMUNISTS. THE OPERATION, HE ADDED, IS TO BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT THE PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE.

PART VIII: MR 2

1. AFTER 24- HOUR PERIOD DURING WHICH NO MILITARY INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN ANY PART OF MR 2 SOUTH OF PHU YEN ON COAST AND PLEIKU IN THE HIGHLANDS-- FIRST TIME SINCE EFFECTIVE DATE OF CEASEFIRE-- MILITARY ACTIVITY RESUMED IN REGION'S SOUTHERN TIER MAR. 28. HOWEVER, VC GROUND ATTACKS PROVED COSTLY BOTH IN BINH THUAN, WHERE VC LOST EIGHT CADRE KIA DURING ATTACK IN THIEU GIAO DISTRICT, AND IN PLEIKU, WHERE 17 VC WERE KIA IN ATTACK ON ARVN BATTALION IN NORTHERN THANH AN DISTRICT.

2. ENEMY ALSO ATTACKED THREE POINTS IN PHU YEN, WHILE IN BINH DINH, VC LAUNCHED TWO ATTACKS ON ARVN POSITION IN HOAI NHON DISTRICT. ARVN SUSTAINED TWO KIA AND TEN WIA; ENEMY LOST FIVE KIA.

3. AS OF 1800 HOURS MAR. 28, TOTAL OF 41 MEMBERS OF BESIEGED RF COMPANY IN KONTUM HAD MADE WAY BACK TO GVN POSITIONS (SEE PREVIOUS SITREPS). FATE OF 38 OTHERS STILL UNKNOWN.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05201 03 OF 04 291653 Z

4. CIVILIAN BUS REACHED QUANG DUC FROM SAIGON OVER QL-14 MAR. 28 FOR FIRST TIME IN A YEAR. VC STOPPED BUS TWICE ENROUTE TO DELIVER PROPAGANDA LECTURES TO PASSENGERS. THEY TOLD BUS DRIVER COMMERCIAL AND TOURIST VEHICLES WILL BE " PERMITTED" TO USE PORTIONS OF QL-14 UNDER VC CONTROL. COMMENT: TRAFFIC FROM SAIGON TO QUANG DUC IS AT MERCY OF VC. UNMOLESTED MOVEMENT WOULD EASE PROVINCE'S " FRONTIER SYNDROME," LOWER PRICES, AND INCREASE VARIETY OF GOODS AVAILABLE.

5. THROUGHOUT TRUCE REGIONS 3 AND 4, US ELEMENTS OF JMT'S ARE PACKING BAGS AND CLEARING OFFICES IN ANTICIPATION OF REDEPLOYMENT HOME SOMETIME THIS WEEK. FOR FIRST TIME IN 12 YEARS, THERE ARE NO US MILITARY PERSONNEL IN KONTUM; HISTORIC MOMENT CAME AND WENT WITHOUT NOTICE BY THE VIETNAMESE AND US ELEMENT

OF JMT DEPARTED FOR PLEIKU MORNING OF MAR. 28. NO CEREMONIES, NO FORMALITIES, JUST PROP- WASH DUST, AND HOLLOW FEELING. US JMT ELEMENTS LIKEWISE DEPARTED BAN ME THUOT AND CHEO REO THIS MORNING. CHIEF OF GVN JMT ELEMENT IN BMT LAMENTED TO POLOFF THAT HE IS NOW THE ONLY " PARTY" LEFT. HE ALSO SAID HIS ELEMENT WOULD REMAIN IN PLACE FOR ANOTHER 20 DAYS TO ALLOW TIME FOR FORMATION OF GVN'S TEAM FOR TWO- PARTY JMC.

6. BINH THUAN PC GAVE GRACEFUL FARWELL PARTY FOR US ELEMENT OF JMC MAR. 28 AT PROVINCE HQ. SECTOR STAFF, GVN JMC ELEMENT, AND REGIONAL ICCS CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS ATTENDED; POLES, HUNGARIANS AND DRV/ PRG REPS TO JMC DECLINED INVITATIONS. IN CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE, ALL CONCERNED WERE IN HIGH SPIRITS. REGIONAL US, DRV AND PRG ELEMENTS ARE ALL EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR SAIGON MAR. 30.

7. ICCS IN BAN ME THUOT STALEMATED ONCE AGAIN BECAUSE ONE OF REPORTED VIOLATIONS UNDER INVESTIGATION INVOLVED 45 TH REGT. OF ARVN 23 RD DIV., WHICH RETURNED TO PLEIKU AFTER COMPLETING BUON HO DISTRICT OPERATION END OF FEB. ICCS MEETING MAR. 28 RESULTED IN DECISION TO ASK GVN WHETHER IT WISHES TO BRING WITNESSES FROM THE REGT. BACK TO DARLAC OR HAVE INVESTIGATION TRANSFERRED TO PLEIKU. INVESTIGATION OF TWO OTHER VIOLATIONS SUSPENDED UNTIL THIS ISSUE RESOLVED BY GVN.

8. FIRST ATTEMPT AT INVESTIGATION BY CHEO REO ICCS TEAM ABORTED
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 05201 03 OF 04 291653 Z

MAR. 27 BECAUSE GVN, IN ADMINISTRATIVE SNAFU, PRESENTED WRONG SET OF WITNESSES. INDODEL AT THIS LOCATION AND PRESUMABLY ALL AROUND THE TRUCE REGION NOW BEGINNING TO ROTATE; INDON CAPTAIN LEAVES FOR BMT MARCH 29 AND HIS REPLACEMENT IS DUE APRIL 1.

9. PROF. THAI BINH AN OF MONTAGNARD NORMAL SCHOOL IN BAN ME THUOT TOLD DARLAC POLOFF HE IS LONG- STANDING MEMBER OF PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL IST MOVEMENT (PNM) AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF CADRE AND TRAINING FOR PARTY' S DARLAC CHAPTER. HOWEVER, HE RECENTLY JOINED DEMOCRACY PARTY (DP) AFTER OFFICIAL PRESSURE WAS BROUGHT TO BEAR ON HIM. AN SAYS PNM LEADER NGUYEN NGOC HUY ADVISED HIM TO COMPLY, TELLING HIM ADHERENCE TO DP WAS MERELY RITUAL ACT AND WOULD NOT PREVENT HIM FROM WORKING FOR PNM IN ANY CASE.

10. DO MINH GIANG, OBSESSIVELY ANTI- COMMUNIST EDUCATION SERVICE CHIEF IN DARLAC AND CHAIRMAN OF DP THERE, TOLD POLOFF DEMOCRACY PARTY' S MAIN THRUST IS TO UNMASK AND EXPEL COMMUNISTS HIDING " NEARLY EVERYWHERE IN RVN." GIANG CLAIMS ALL HIS 700 TEACHERS ARE WORKING TO DETECT COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE INFILTRATED SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TRAINING PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE COMMUNISTS, " NO MATTER WHAT THEIR DISGUISE."

PART IX: MAR-3

1. III CORPS CG LT GENERAL NGUYEN VAN MINH HAS INSTRUCTED HIS SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS AND PROVINCE CHIEFS TO BE ESPECIALLY ON THE ALERT FOR POSSIBLE COMMUNIST INCURSIONS NOW THAT THE AMERICAN MILITARY HAVE DEPARTED VIET- NAM. MINH BELIEVES THAT IF THE COMMUNISTS ARE GOING TO MAKE A MOVE BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON, THEY MAY DECIDE THAT THIS IS A MORE PROPITIOUS TIME THAN, SAY, LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. THIS IS A CHANGE IN MINH' S THINKING. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD HIS SUBORDINATES THAT THE COMMUNIST BUILDUP IN MR III IS IN PREPARATION FOR AN OFFENSIVE WHICH HE PREDICTED WOULD BE LAUNCHED DURING LATE APRIL OR MAY. MINH APPEARS TO BE CONVINCED THAT COSVN WILL WANT TO EMBARRASS THE GVN BY INFLECTING CASUALTIES ON ITS TROOPS WHILE PRESIDENT THIEU IS VISITING THE UNITED STATES. HE IS IN A BUOYANT MOOD FOLLOWING THE HOLDING OF THE BESIEGED RACH BAP OUTPOST AND THE RANGER S' STANDING UP TO THE COMMUNISTS AT TONLE CHAM. HE TOLD THE CONGEN THAT THE MORALE OF HIS FIGHTING FORCES IS HIGH AND THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF COPING
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 SAIGON 05201 03 OF 04 291653 Z

WITH ANY OFFENSIVE THE COMMUNISTS MIGHT CHOOSE TO LAUNCH.

2. THE VC REPORTEDLY HAVE BARRED ALL TRAFFIC ON ROUTE 13 BETWEEN LAI KHE AND CHON THANH SINCE LAST WEEKEND. THEY ARE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE PROHIBITED TRUCK TRAFFIC ON ROUTE 1 A FROM PHUOC VINH TO PHUOC LONG. SOME VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS FEEL THESE RESTRICTIONS MAY BE RELATED TO NVA TROOP MOVEMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05201 04 OF 04 291548 Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

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USDEL FRANCE
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 SAIGON 5201

3. BINH DUONG PROVINCE HAS SCHEDULED ELECTIONS FOR
16 VILLAGE COUNCILS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRED LAST YEAR. THE 16
VILLAGES INCLUDE NOT ONLY MOST OF THE LARGE AND PROSPEROUS
VILLAGES IN THE PROVINCE, BUT ALSO AT LEAST THREE (AN SON,
PHUOC HOA, AND DINH THANH) WHICH HAVE A HISTORY OF VC
INFLUENCE.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05201 04 OF 04 291548 Z

4. A CANADIAN ICCS OFFICER REPORTS THAT BINH DUONG OFFICIALS
HAVE RECENTLY BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING ON ALLOWING ICCS
MEMBERS FREEDOM OF TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE LAN SON COMPOUND. THIS
CONTRASTS WITH THE HEAVY RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL PLACED ON
THE ICCS DURING ITS FIRST WEEK THERE. DELEGATES ARE STILL
ACCOMPANIED BY A POLICE ESCORT ON ALL TRIPS, HOWEVER.

5. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, THE BEN CAT TEAM'S
INVESTIGATION OF THE RACH BAP INCIDENT WAS LIMITED TO
INTERVIEWING ARVN SOLDIERS WHO WERE BROUGHT TO THE ICCS
COMPOUND. SINCE THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION HAD A " PREVIOUS
ENGAGEMENT" IN BIEN HOA, ONLY THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS
TOOK PART.

6. APPROXIMATELY 50 HOUSES CAN NOW BE SEEN FROM THE
AIR IN THE VC- CONTROLLED AREA OF PHU HOA DISTRICT, JUST SOUTH
OF THE HO BO WOODS. THE HOUSES ARE LARGE, PERHAPS INTENDED
FOR TWO FAMILIES EACH, AND APPARENTLY HAVE THATCH ROOFS.
THE NUMBER OF THESE HOUSES HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY IN THE PAST
MONTH, AND THERE IS NO SIGN FROM THE AIR THAT ARVN TROOPS HAVE

MADE ANY EFFORT TO DESTROY THEM.

7. AN AN QUANQ BUDDHIST DELEGATION FROM SAIGON WHICH HAS BEEN VISITING BINH TUY HAS COMPLAINED OF HARASSMENT BY GVN OFFICIALS AND BINH TUY PROVINCE CHIEF, LTC THINH, HAS ACCUSED THE GROUP OF ANTI- GVN POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND AGITATION. THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION, ENERABLE QUANQ THANH, TOLD POLOFF THAT THE GROUP IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROJECTS BUT WOULD EXPLAIN THE AN QUANQ POSITION ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE " THIRD FORCE" AND ELECTIONS " IF ASKED" AT PUBLIC MEETINGS. QUANQ THANH SAID AN QUANQ' S POSITION IS TO REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING EITHER THIEU OR THE COMMUNISTS UNTIL THE CHURCH COULD DETERMINE WHAT COURSE WOULD ASSURE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR SVN. HE ADMITTED THAT THIS IS A POLITICAL POSITION, BUT DENIED THAT IT CONSTITUTED AGITATION AGAINST THE RVN OR FOR THE COMMUNISTS.

PART X: MR-4

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED SLIGHTLY AGAIN YESTERDAY, TO 60 VC/ NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS. THE HEAVIEST ACTIVITY WAS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05201 04 OF 04 291548 Z

IN CHUONG THIEN, WHICH HAD BEEN QUIET FOR A WEEK. GVN CASUALTIES ARE STILL A LITTLE BELOW LAST WEEK' S LEVEL. VC/ NVA CASUALTIES ARE ABOUT HALF THE DAILY AVERAGE FOR AST WEEK. SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS ALSO OCCURRED IN THE CHAU DOC- KIEN PHONG AREA.

2. MARCH 29 THE VC LAUNCHED ATTACKS AGAINST FIVE OUTPOSTS IN VINH CHAU DISTRICT OF BAC LIEU PROVINCE. COMMUNICATION WAS LOST WITH ALL FIVE OUTPOSTS AND THE RESULTS OF THE ATTACKS ARE NOT YET KNOWN. THE ACTION MAY BE ONE OF THE PERIODIC EXCURSIONS THE VC SOC TRANG LOCAL FORCE BATTALION MAKES INTO VINH CHAU, BUT IT FOLLOWS A PATTERN OF RECENT ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS IN THE COASTAL AREA OF AN XUYEN AND BAC LIEU.

3. A CGMMERICAL SHIP SAILING UP THE MEKONG WAS DAMAGED BY A ROCKET ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF TAN CHAU CITY, CHAU DOC PROVINCE. THE GVN HAS NOT FORMALLY INTERRUPTED RIVER TRAFFIC BUT TRAFFIC IS REPORTEDLY SLOWER THAN USUAL. THE DAMAGED SHIP RETURNED TO TAN CHAU.

4. DURING A COURTESY CALL AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL MARCH 28, COLONEL MARION WIECZERZAK, REGION VII (CAN THO) ICCS POLISH DELEGATION CHIEF, ANNOUNCED THAT THE POLISH DELEGATION HAD SENT A NEW TEAM TO TRI TON MARCH 28.

5. VINH BINH AUTHORITIES HAVE BLOWN THEIR THIRD REQUEST FOR AN ICCS INVESTIGATION, PROTEST OF AN ALLEGED MARCH 23 CEASEFIRE VIOLATION WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF 13 POPULAR FORCE SOLDIERS IN SOUTHERN VINH BINH. UNDER CAREFUL

HUNGARIAN QUESTIONING, THE VINH BINH CASE FELL APART. ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT AND THOSE REPORTED KILLED WERE REPEATEDLY CONTRADICTED AND CONFUSED BY WITNESSES. THE ICCS LEFT UNCONVINCED AND WILL NOT PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION. TWO PREVIOUS VINH BINH REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS WERE ALSO SHABBILY DOCUMENTED AND SUFFERED A SIMILAR FATE UNDER ICCS SCRUTINY.

6. THE USAFPJMC HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO LEAVE THE DELTA ON MARCH 31. THE DRV DELEGATION WILL DEPART ON THE SAME DATE. PRG PLANS ARE NOT CLEAR. HOWEVER, WITH ONLY A SIX-MAN TEAM DEPLOYED IN REGION VII (CAN THO), AND ONLY A REDUCED ADVANCE TEAM IN REGION VI (MY THO), THE PRG WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS, UNLESS IT AUGMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 05201 04 OF 04 291548 Z

7. COMPULSORY MEMBERSHIP IN THE DEMOCRACY PARTY (DP) IS COMMON PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE DELTA. FROM AN GIANG COMES THE FIRST REPORT THAT THE GVN IS USING SIMILAR TACTICS RE THE POPULAR FRONT (PF). PRESSURE TO JOIN THE PF COULD NOW UNDERMINE ITS REPUTATION AS A BROAD, LOW PRESSURE NATIONALIST FRONT.

8. TACH PIECH, THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CAMBODIAN MONK IN THE DELTA, MET WITH PRESIDENT THIEU DURING THE FARMERS' DAY GATHERING IN CAN THO ON MARCH 26. TACH PIECH TOLD BA XUYEN POLOFF HE ASKED THE PRESIDENT TO PROMOTE A CAMBODIAN REPIDLY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL. AT PRESENT THE HIGHEST RANKING CAMBODIAN IS A COLONEL. HE ALSO ASKED THAT THIEU SUSPEND GENERAL NGHI' S ORDER TRANSFERRING OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN A SINGLE SECTOR, IN SO FAR AS IT AFFECTS CAMBODIANS. HE ALSO

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